(c) whetehr the coir factory workers and small scale coir factory owners have opposed the move; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATS-TICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was not found possible to grant expost facto approval to revise the MEP (Minimum Export Price) from 22.08.97

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government have not accepted the proposal of the Coir Board to revise the MEP upwards from 22.08.97.

MEP for Coir Products

1675. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coir Board has taken any decision to phaseout MEP for coir products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Board has discussed this matter with workers and other organisations working in this field; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNAL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): *(a)* to (d) Coir Board in consultation with workers and other organisations working in the coir sector has recommended exclusion

of powerloom products and coir geotextiles from the MEP regime. It has also recommended removal of embellishments from the calculations of MEP, on an experimental basis for one year and to review it thereafter.

Private participation in Satellite Launching

1676. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a plan to launch a private satellite in the year 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons for private participation in this area;

(c) what would be Government's role in controlling and using the services generated by it; and

(d) how many such proposals are pending with Govemment for private parties for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the approved policy framework on Satellite Communication allows Indian Private Parties to establish commercial communication satellites. Establishment of such private satellite system will be authorised by the Govemment following certain well defined and transparent norms.

(c) The regulation of services offered by private satellite networks will be carried out by the concerned Govemment departments mandated for those services.

(d) At present no proposal is pending.

Ministerial conference on space applications

1677. *sum* RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India hosted the second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific recently in New Delhi;